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Sen. Allen to Gov. Granholm: ‘Northern Michigan needs representation on Film Advisory Commission’

LANSING – Earlier this week the governor made twelve appointments to the Michigan Film Advisory Commission and failed to appoint anyone who lives north of Grand Rapids, said Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City.

There is one appointment to the commission remaining for the governor, representing local units of government.

“Northern Michigan has a tremendous amount of talent to offer this commission,” Allen said. “I had hoped representation from all across our state was made to this board and not just a couple of counties, mainly from southeast Michigan. The governor can still provide geographic diversity by making the final appointment from northern Michigan or the Upper Peninsula.”

The Michigan Film Advisory Commission was created to assist the Michigan Film Office and to make recommendations to the Legislature to help attract incoming production companies and to promote the growth of our indigenous film and television production industry.

The advisory commission was created in 2001 by legislation sponsored by Allen. The Michigan Film Office is part of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries.

Public Act 63 of 2001 allows for the governor to make thirteen appointments to the commission. Of the appointments made this week, eleven of the gubernatorial appointments were made to citizens living in Oakland or Wayne counties, with one appointment by the governor made to a Kent County resident.

“There are many local officials with great experience in northern Michigan that have experience working with private firms and community groups in creating commercials, films, documentaries and organizing local film festivals,” Allen said. “These northern residents should be given considerable consideration for this remaining appointment.”

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Editor’s note: Sen. Allen’s comments on the governor’s appointments to the Michigan Film Board are available on the Senate Majority Audiowire at:

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/Allen/index.htm>.